

potential to leverage vast new resources. We are the wealthiest country in the world. We should be leading the charge. The Global Fund is the best vehicle to show that type of cooperation and provide for the quick release of this money.

Perhaps most importantly, we must stress and implement a balanced, comprehensive HIV prevention policy that includes abstinence, being faithful, and condoms.

Mr. Speaker, we must also go further. As United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan said so eloquently in his remarks during the opening ceremonies on Sunday, we must place, he said, a special emphasis on reducing the cultural, social, economic, and political factors that increase the vulnerability of women and girls to HIV.

On July 9, just before leaving for Bangkok, I introduced H.R. 4792, The New United States Global HIV Prevention Strategy to Address the Needs of Women and Girls Act of 2004, with 54 original cosponsors. This bill would do just that. We need a focused effort on women and children. Women and children need the assistance of this country and a comprehensive strategy to address this pandemic.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HENSARLING). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SCHIFF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. LIPINSKI addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. ANDREWS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

INDIVIDUALS SHOULD HAVE A SECOND CHANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor this evening because earlier today I failed to pass an amendment in a Committee on Education and the Workforce markup. My amendment was a very simple amendment, very modest amendment. It was an amendment that would have allowed States to move utilization of their leadership funds for vocational education from 1 percent to 3 percent.

Now, I think my amendment failed not because it lacked merit. I do not think it failed because it was too ambitious, but I think it failed basically because of a lack of understanding and sensitivity to what I think is emerging as one of the biggest problems facing urban America today, and that is, the problem of individuals coming home from prison with no skill, little education, no training and virtually no ability to get a job, which sends them right back to the penitentiaries from which they have come.

We have become, Mr. Speaker, the most incarcerated Nation on the face of the Earth, the United States of America. It is hard to believe, but we have more people in prison per capita than any other country on the face of the Earth. Right now, as I speak, there are more than 2 million people in this country who are incarcerated, in jails and prisons. More than 640,000 of them come home each and every year.

Now, I will not even bother to go into why there are so many people in prison: mandatory minimums, antiquated sentencing laws, get tough on drugs, punishment that does not fit the crime; of course, lack of prevention, lack of education, poverty; all of the things that characterize individuals who are in prison and, of course, in many instances, race and ethnic backgrounds.

The realities are, if we do not do something to stem the tide, then this problem keeps recurring over and over and over again.

Last year, I introduced a bill, the Public Safety Ex-Offender Self-Sufficiency Act of 2003, along with the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER). That bill calls for the building of 100,000 units of SRO-type housing for ex-offenders, people as they come out of prison because all of the studies suggest that one of the biggest problems that people have when they return home from prison is having a stable environment in which to live.

About 3 weeks ago, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and I and the gentleman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) introduced the Second Chance Ex-Offender Act which is, in reality, a scaled-down version of our first bill. What we are really trying to do is to assist people to reenter back into normal life. It has nothing to do with getting soft on crime or being soft on crime, but it has everything to do with promoting public safety, with reducing recidivism, with improving the quality of life, not only for those individuals who return but for all of those with whom they come into contact.

So, Mr. Speaker, I hope that as we continue to move progressively in our country that we would take a different look at how we treat punishment and how individuals who have gone afoul of the law should have and must have a second chance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentle-

woman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE BURDEN WE ARE PASSING ON TO OUR KIDS AND GRANDKIDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I recently received this in the mail, and I do not know if the cameras can really pick it up. It is a front page that is sort of startling.

It says the budget, bloated with pork. The national debt, soaring past \$7 trillion. Is it not time to fight back, is the main headline. Interest rates rising. Entitlement program, \$73 trillion in unfunded liabilities.

Sort of makes one realize the tremendous burden that we are passing on to our kids and our grandkids. It speaks of \$7 trillion dollar national debt, and of course, you have to pay interest on that national debt because you are borrowing the money.

Interest on that national debt now represents about 14 percent of the total budget. This pie chart represents how we are spending the \$2.4 trillion of expenditures this year. Interest at 14 percent, that represents \$800 billion that we are paying in interest, and interest rates now are relatively low. So that means, as interest rates go up, the portion of the total income coming into the Federal Government is going to be used up paying interest.

So two things: interest rates are going up, and the debt is going up faster than it ever has. We are now increasing the debt by over \$500 billion a year, and that is because we have a propensity to spend. Politicians have found out that they are more likely to be reelected if they bring home the pork barrel projects. They get on the paper cutting of the ribbon of the new facilities, of the jogging trails or the libraries or whatever, and that overspending, because of efforts to try or politicians to try to be liked by the people back home and to get elected is part of what is driving up our debt.

Over \$500 billion a year of deficit spending. Deficit spending means how much in 1 year we are overspending, over and above the revenues coming into government. That \$500 billion of increased debt a year, how do you put it in perspective?